

**IN THE CLAIMS**

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (currently amended) A method of powering an audio output device of a computer system, comprising the steps of:

determining whether a passive or active audio output device is connected to an audio output jack of the computer system; and

based on said determining step, providing one of a plurality of different power levels to the audio output jack by selectively controlling the output of a switch device having a first input from an audio codec and headphone amplifier and a second input from a passive speaker amplifier wherein said audio codec and headphone amplifier has an output connected to an input of said passive speaker amplifier.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said determining step includes the step of sensing an impedance at the audio output jack.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein:

said determining step determines that a passive audio output device is connected to the audio output jack; and

said providing step applies a 3-watt power signal to the audio output jack.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

said determining step determines that an active audio output device is connected to the audio output jack; and

said providing step applies a 1/4-watt power signal to the audio output jack.

5. (original) The method of Claim 2, wherein said sensing step includes the step of comparing a load voltage associated with the impedance to a reference voltage.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A circuit for powering an audio output device of a computer system, comprising:

an audio output jack;

means for determining whether a passive or active audio output device is connected to said audio output jack; and

means for providing one of a plurality of different power levels to said audio output jack based on said determining means, said means for providing including a switch device having a first input from an audio codec and headphone amplifier and a second input from a passive speaker amplifier wherein said audio codec and headphone amplifier has an output connected to an input of said passive speaker amplifier.

8. (original) The circuit of Claim 7, wherein said determining means includes means for sensing an impedance at said audio output jack.

9. (original) The circuit of Claim 7, wherein when said determining means determines that a passive audio output device is connected to said audio output jack, said providing means applies a 3-watt power signal to said audio output jack.

10. (original) The circuit of Claim 7, wherein when said determining means determines that an active audio output device is connected to said audio output jack, said providing means applies a 1/4-watt power signal to said audio output jack.

11. (original) The circuit of Claim 8, wherein said sensing means includes the means for comparing a load voltage associated with the impedance to a reference voltage.

12-13. (canceled)

14. (original) The circuit of Claim 9, wherein said active audio output device is a headphone.

15. (canceled)